

Today's News - Tuesday, April 8, 2014

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for not posting yesterday - stuff happens. Now we have a lot of catching up to do!

- ANN Feature: Crosbie explains why the criticism that crowd-sourcing design sites like Arcbazar are taking jobs away from architects doesn't wash.
- Russell x 2: the Rebuild by Design teams "offer suites of tactics that create flood protection, urban amenity, and economic development benefits" for the Sandy-battered shore.
- He delves into the "structural gymnastics" behind the "ultrathin, ultra-tall residential towers for the ultrarich" changing the Manhattan skyline: "high-rise living worldwide will benefit from the innovations that make these super-slims possible."
- Melbourne has a "design rule rethink amidst fears that the city skyline will be marred by sub-standard buildings."
- Allen reports from New Orleans Entrepreneur Week: "Private interests that are selected willy-nilly on the basis of seven-minute pitches are clearly not the answer."
- The National Capital Planning Commission votes against Gehry's Eisenhower Memorial design because it "did not adhere to design principles put forth by the commission (among other reasons).
- Will Gehry win the hearts and minds of the Brits with his and Foster's designs for Battersea?
- Moore doesn't give the newly-opened portion of London's Olympic Park any medals for "visual flair" - the good news. "We have a park," but it's no High Line: "we get a Disneyfied version...the visual equivalent of several mobile ringtones going off at once."
- Ijeh talks to Corner re: his part of the Olympic Park: "It's not just a breathing space, it's a social space."
- As Kapoor's ArcelorMittal Orbit reopens, he talks about "why its awkwardness is its strength and what distinguishes art from Disneyland."
- As its population grows, Cleveland's Playhouse Square "may provide a model for other struggling Rust Belt cities that are eager to find the synergy that links the performing arts, urban development and affordable commercial real estate."
- Cupers takes a fascinating, in-depth look at "the complex legacy of public housing in postwar France": The dominant perception is that it "has been a monstrous catastrophe...historical shortsightedness has helped to legitimize the current policies of massive demolition."
- Heathcote takes a look at some contemporary architects "paying homage to the radical ideas of the 1920s" Russia (not all successfully).
- Chaban reports on the growing interest in Ban's Manhattan projects: "Anyone can install waterfall showers and Wolf ranges. A Pritzker is harder to come by."
- Schumacher and Murphy report on the latest re-design of the Milwaukee Art Museum's new addition things are a bit murky about the role of its original architect: "The relationship between an architect and a client isn't an easy thing."
- Sperry explains (again) "why architects are in need of a Hippocratic Oath of their own to prevent human rights abuses."
- His reasoning is a good reason to attend the Humanitarian Architecture Conference in Glasgow later this week.
- National Architecture Week starts with 10 winners of the AIA 2014 Housing Awards (great presentation).
- Canada gives the 2014 Prix du XXe siècle to Toronto City Hall and the Strutt House "for their enduring excellence as nationally significant works of architecture."
- Call for entries: Space Forward: Ideas Competition: "Re-Imagine Their Workplace" at 1407 Broadway, NYC (big cash prizes).

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ANN Feature: Crowdsourcing Design: The End of Architecture, or a New Beginning? Why the criticism that crowdsourcing design sites like Arcbazar are taking jobs away from architects doesn't wash. By Michael J. Crosbie- ArchNewsNow

Rebuild by Design Redesigns Sandy-Battered Shore: Instead of visionary ideas or grand plans, the teams offered suites of tactics that create flood protection, urban amenity, and economic development benefits. By James S. Russell -- Henk Ovink; WXY Architecture and Urban Design/West 8; PennDesign/Olin; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; HR&A/Cooper Robertson; Waggoner & Ball/unabridged Architecture; Scape/Kate Orff; Sasaki Associates/Rutgers University/Arup; Interboro Partners-Architectural Record

Moving Up in the World: Structural gymnastics help ultrathin, ultra-tall residential towers for the ultrarich make their mark on the Manhattan skyline...high-rise living worldwide will benefit from the innovations that make these super-slims possible. By James S. Russell -- Christian de Portzamparc; Rafael Viñoly; SHoP Architects; Herzog & de Meuron; Jean Nouvel; WSP [CEU credit; slide show]- Architectural Record

Sky-high slum fears in Melbourne prompt design rule rethink by state government: ...amidst fears that the city skyline will be marred by sub-standard buildings...complaints have arisen within the industry about the unimaginative design, small size and lack of amenities (light, ventilation and privacy) in many of these larger inner-city developments.- Architecture & Design (Australia)

Entrepreneurship is Not a Resilience Strategy: ...the Water Challenge component of the 6th annual New Orleans Entrepreneur Week...Private interests that are selected willy-nilly on the basis of seven-minute pitches are clearly not the answer...we need to stop pretending that the "wisdom of the market"...is any viable substitute for sound science and practical solutions executed at the behest of smart public policy that has everyone's interests in mind. By Michael R. Allen- Next City (formerly Next American City)

National Capital Planning Commission goes to war with Gehry Partners over Eisenhower Memorial design: ...voted 7 to 3 to disapprove the design and building plans...because of the proposed size, scale and configuration of the large columns and tapestries...did not adhere to design principles put forth by the commission...- Washington Post

Frank Gehry overrules Viñoly at Battersea: "We thought it was important to break down the scale": Instead of just two buildings along Electric Boulevard, Gehry and...Foster + Partners have designed five, creating a more permeable plan than Viñoly's masterplan envisaged. They have also turned Viñoly's reflecting pool into a park. [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park – no medals for visual flair: A collision of competing garish styles mars the southern half of the remodelled Olympic Park in east London: Let's start with the good news. We have a park...this is no High Line...we get a Disneyfied version...the visual equivalent of several mobile ringtones going off at once. By Rowan Moore -- Anish Kapoor; Cecil Balmond; Kathryn Findlay; James Corner Field Operations; Piet Oudolf; Heneghan Peng [images]- Observer (UK)

'It's not just a breathing space, it's a social space': James Corner has created a promenade of public play spaces dotted around the main venues of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Ije Ijeh speaks to the designer as the park re-opens to the public. -- James Corner Field Operations [images]- BD/Building Design (UK)

Anish Kapoor: 'One piece of spaghetti props up another': As his "ArcelorMittal Orbit" 2012 Olympic tower reopens to the public, he tells Nicholas Wroe why its awkwardness is its strength and what distinguishes art from Disneyland..."out of such a complicated and political thing...we managed to build this thing, awkward as it is, and I hope its problematic aspects will be what matter most in the end." -- Cecil Balmond- Guardian (UK)

Cleveland's Thriving Theater Hub Lures Residents: PlayhouseSquare...has helped double the population of the city's core to 12,000...people are not just being entertained...They're calling it home...may provide a model for other struggling Rust Belt

cities that are eager to find the synergy that links the performing arts, urban development and affordable commercial real estate. - New York Times

The Social Project: The Complex Legacy of Public Housing in Postwar France: Never before was modern architecture built on such a massive scale...The dominant perception...is that postwar housing has been a monstrous catastrophe. Many have blamed the architects and planners...historical shortsightedness has helped to legitimize the current policies of massive demolition. By Kenny Cupers [images; adapted from "The Social Project: Housing Postwar France"]- Places Journal

Soviet structures need reclaiming from a grim past: ...just as the Shukhov Tower and dozens of other masterpieces from arguably the most fertile and inventive period in the history of modernism crumble, contemporary architects are paying homage to the radical ideas of the 1920s. By Edwin Heathcote -- David Adjaye; Mikhail Posokhin/Frank Williams; Jürgen Mayer H; Sou Fujimoto; Zaha Hadid; Dezső Ekler; MVRDV- Financial Times (UK)

Interest in a Property Grows With One Key Addition: An Architecture Prize: After Shigeru Ban won the award, the clamor for a piece of the prize became palpable at his two projects in Manhattan...Anyone can install waterfall showers and Wolf ranges. A Pritzker is harder to come by. By Matt Chaban -- Michael Sorkin; Dean Maltz [images]- New York Times

Milwaukee Art Museum releases design for new building: ...the look and feel of the new addition is quite changed..."Yes, I was involved in that scheme, yes," Shields said. "I was hoping to just quit the project"... By Mary Louise Schumacher -- Jim Shields/HGA; David Kahler (1972); Santiago Calatrava (2001); Eero Saarinen (1957) [slide show]- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Top Architect Quit Project for Museum Addition: Jim Shields had falling out with Milwaukee Art Museum; new addition was designed by committee, not Shields...""I kind of exited the project back in February...The relationship between an architect and a client isn't an easy thing"... By Bruce Murphy -- HGA [images]- Urban Milwaukee

Discipline and Punish: The Architecture of Human Rights: Why architects are in need of a Hippocratic Oath of their own to prevent human rights abuses. By Raphael Sperry /Architects Designers and Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR)- Architectural Review (UK)

Clean Conscience Dirty Hands: Humanitarian Architecture Conference, 11-12 April: Mackintosh School of Architecture (The Glasgow School of Art) will host its first International Symposium for Social and Humanitarian Architecture, 'Clean Conscience Dirty Hands', in the new Reid Building by Steven Holl Architects.- Architectural Review (UK)

National Architecture Week starts with 10 winners of the AIA 2014 Housing Awards -- Koning Eizenberg Architecture; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; NK Architects; Olson Kundig Architects; Johnsen Schmaling Architects; Lake|Flato Architects; Brooks + Scarpa; Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects [images, info]- American Institute of Architects (AIA)

2014 Prix du XXe siècle awarded to Toronto City Hall and the Strutt House: ...for their enduring excellence as nationally significant works of architecture. -- Heritage Canada The National Trust (HCNT); Architecture Canada | RAIC; Viljo Revell; John B. Parkin Associates (now NORR); James W. Strutt [link to images, info]- Canadian Architect

Call for entries: Space Forward: Ideas Competition: "Re-Imagine Their Workplace" at 1407 Broadway, NYC (open to U.S. residents); Jury Prize: \$14,000; 3 runners-up will each receive \$3,000; deadline: **May 15**- The Lightstone Group

ANN Feature: Drawing an Elegant Conclusion: Menil Drawing Institute by Johnston Marklee: Houston: In the somewhat arbitrary hierarchy of fine art media, where painting is king, drawing is often considered less valuable. The new MDI elevates the medium by providing a distinguished, respectful home. By Julie D. Taylor, Hon. AIA/LA [images]- ArchNewsNow

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